

**Bournemouth  
University**

# Evolution of the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Leader Facilitation Course

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## Introduction

**Who?** Taught & facilitated by the [PAL Tutor Team](#) for student PAL Leaders

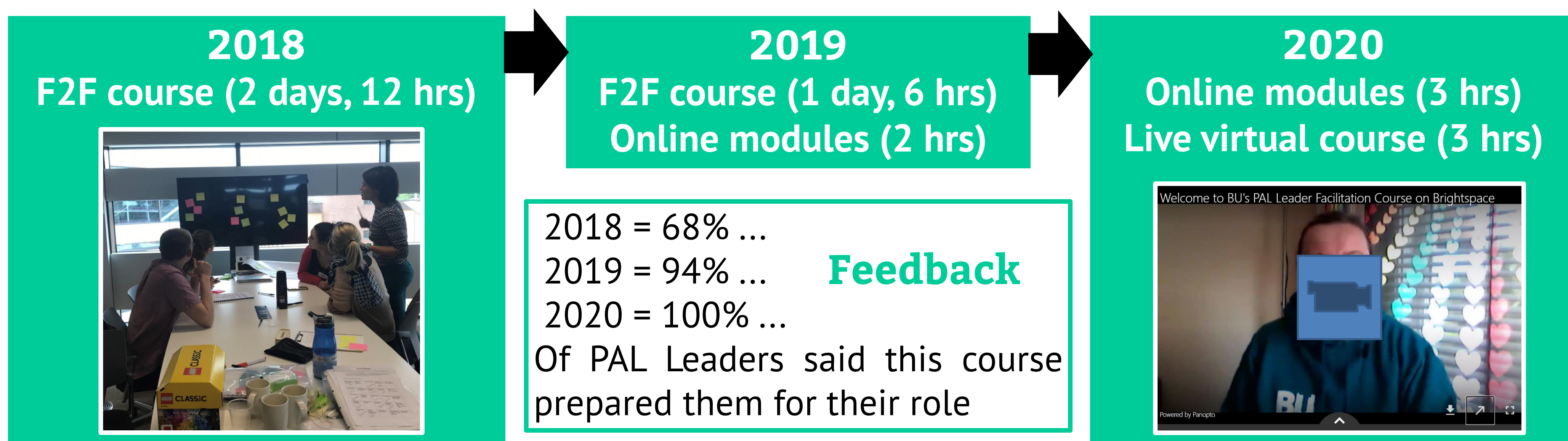
**What?** Mandatory training course to prepare PAL Leaders for [their role](#)

**When?** Usually May/June/September each academic year

**Where?** Previously face-to-face (F2F) & handbook. Migrated to [VLE](#), [online guide](#) & MS Teams

**Why?** Course has been adapted each year to address feedback from PAL Leaders & challenges explained below

**Our Vision:** To innovate & enhance this course whilst maintaining teaching excellence & quality of learning experience



## Challenges

- Synchronous vs asynchronous learning during the pandemic: maintaining quality & PAL Leader engagement
- HE policy: HR introduces pay for mandatory training, resulting in budget constraints
- Student experience: continue meeting learning outcomes for all course activities

## Developments

- Transformation from paper handbook to [online modules](#)
- Migration of content across platforms from [Springshare's Libwizard](#) to [Brightspace \(D2L\)](#)
- Consolidating learning via "flipped classroom" (BU 2021) approach

## Core elements in the design & delivery of this course curriculum

- **Active learning** "...in order to learn, students must do more than simply listen.[...] Teachers design instruction that invites students to take action and to reflect on the skills and/or the knowledge required to complete a task" (Thomas 2009, p.13).
- **Blended learning**, sometimes known as hybrid learning, is traditionally thought of as a blend of media or technologies allowing for a blend of modalities of learning, face-to-face and online" (Every Learner Everywhere et al. 2021, p.4).

## References

- BU, 2021. *Mixing the delivery of content: What is a flipped classroom?* [online]. Poole: Bournemouth University. Available from: <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-people/centre-fusion-learning-innovation-excellence/tel-toolkit/pedagogical-approaches-tel/flipped-classroom> [Accessed 21 June 2021].
- Every Learner Everywhere, Online Learning Consortium (OLC) & National Research Center for Distance Education & Technological Advancements (DETA), 2021. *Planning for a blended future: A research-driven guide for Educators* [online]. Colorado: Every Learner Everywhere. Available from: <https://www.everylearnereverywhere.org/resources/planning-for-a-blended-future> [Accessed 21 June 2021].
- Thomas, T.G., 2009. Active learning. In: Provenzo, E.F. & Renaud J.P. (eds), *Encyclopedia of the social & cultural foundations of education: volume 3* [online]. London: Sage. Available from: [https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Encyclopedia\\_of\\_the\\_Social\\_and\\_Cultural/mBwX-YsnvEUC?hl=en&gbpv=0](https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Encyclopedia_of_the_Social_and_Cultural/mBwX-YsnvEUC?hl=en&gbpv=0) [Accessed 21 June 2021].